

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TANG, CVIS, CH

SUBJECT: VISA FEES AND CATEGORIES

REF: (A) PEKING 1031; (B) PEKING 712

1. PRC JOURNALISTS ASSIGNED TO UN WERE ORIGINALLY ISSUED I VISAS AND INS GRANTED THEM A ONE YEAR LENGTH OF STAY. WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT PRC AUTHORITIES WERE NOT GOING TO ALLOW US JOURNALISTS TO BE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO PEKING, THIS POLICY WAS REVIEWED. IT WAS FELT AT THAT TIME (1973) A C-2 VISA WAS IDEAL FOR PRC JOURNALISTS AS IT WAS STRICTLY A UN VISA AND HAD BUILT-IN TRAVEL CONTROLS. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS DECIDED THAT PRC JOURNALISTS' LENGTH OF STAY SHOULD BE LIMITED TO SIX MONTHS. THIS WAS PRIMARILY IN RESPONSE TO FACT THAT US JOURNALISTS WERE NOT PERMITTED TO BE ASSIGNED TO PEKING (THE USUAL LENGTH OF STAY FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ASSIGNED TO THE UN IS ONE YEAR).

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2. THERE WAS APPARENTLY SOME CONFUSION WITH INS WHEN C-2

VISAS WERE FIRST ISSUED AND THEREFORE IT WAS DECIDED TO WRITE THE LENGTH OF STAY LIMITATION ON THE VISA. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED THAT A SIX MONTH LENGTH OF STAY

COULD NOT BE PLACED ON A C-2 VISA. IT EITHER HAD TO BE 29 DAYS OR DURATION OF STAY. AFTER REVIEWING THE POSSIBILITIES, IT WAS DECIDED TO ISSUE I VISAS WITH A SIX MONTH LENGTH OF STAY AND TRAVEL CONTROLS WRITTEN ON THE VISA.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MFA YOU CAN SAY: THE SIX MONTH LENGTH OF STAY IS NOT A NEW POLICY. AFTER REVIEWING THE VARIOUS VISA CATEGORIES IN 1973 TO DETERMINE VISA FEES, VALIDITY OF VISAS, LENGTH OF STAY, ETC., IT WAS DECIDED THAT C-2 VISAS AND A SIX MONTH LENGTH OF STAY WERE APPROPRIATE FOR PRC JOURNALISTS. (YOU MIGHT REFER TO TAI AND TANG CASES MENTIONED IN PARA 7 OF YOUR 740). FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS IT WAS DECIDED IN EARLY 1975 THAT C-2 VISAS WERE NO LONGER APPROPRIATE AND THAT PRC JOURNALISTS WOULD ONCE AGAIN BE ISSUED I VISAS. INGERSOLL

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